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## REVIEWS OF BOOKS

*The war of democracy.* The allies' statement. (New York: Doubleday, Page and company, 1917. 441 p. \$2 00)

This volume is made up of a series of papers, letters, speeches, and interviews, twenty-two in all including the introduction, prepared or contributed by English, French, and Belgian statesmen, professors, and publicists. The purpose of the work is to provide a statement of the position taken by the allies with respect to certain phases of the present world conflict, such as the rights of neutrals, the value of small nations, ethical problems of the war, the freedom of the seas, the problems of Belgium, Serbia, and Alsace-Lorraine, and the like. It cannot be denied that contributions from such men as Mr. Asquith, Mr. Lloyd George, Lord Bryce, Lord Grey, Mr. Balfour, M. Paul Hymans, at one time minister of state in Belgium, Mr. H. A. L. Fisher and Mr. Gilbert Murray, come with a certain authority that commands immediate attention; at the same time, it is also true that statements coming from such men are likely to be of an *ex parte* character. It may be doubted whether the interviews included in the volume are of sufficient dignity to have a place in a work of this sort; an interview always looks best in a newspaper, and its form is usually determined by the interest of the moment. It is also a question whether the paper on the death of Edith Cavell and the statement regarding the Lusitania medal should have been admitted: they relate to incidents that have scarcely more than illustrative value. In a measure the same criticism applies to M. Barres' discussion of the "Soul of France." After all the questionable materials have been eliminated, however, there still remain a number of interesting papers, the importance of which will be realized at once and will not be limited to the present.

L. M. L.

*Descriptive catalogue of the documents relating to the history of the United States in the papeles procedentes de Cuba deposited in the archivo general de Indias at Seville.* By Roscoe R. Hill, professor of history, university of New Mexico. [Carnegie institution of Washington, publication, no. 234; papers of the department of historical research edited by J. Franklin Jameson] (Washington: Carnegie institution of Washington, 1917. 594 p. \$4.00)

Early in its career the department of historical research of the Carnegie institution of Washington announced that in order to carry out

its life purpose of furthering historical research it had mapped out for itself a program which in the present state of historical scholarship may be characterized as being equally wise and unselfish. This program involves three lines of activity: first, the survey of the principal archives of the world with a view to ascertaining what material of importance for American history they contain; second, the compilation of calendars of selected groups of the material pointed out in these surveys; third, the systematic publication of documents selected from the material thus pointed out and analyzed.

Now that the first of these three tasks is practically finished, surveys of the great American and European archives containing material important for investigation in American history having been made by scholars thoroughly competent for their tasks, and the results made available by the publication of guides to this material, the department has begun on the second task. Of this relatively intensive work Mr. Hill's *Descriptive catalogue of the documents relating to the history of the United States in the papeles procedentes de la Isla de Cuba* is the first offering.

The introduction treats briefly the history of the *archivo general de las Indias* and of the present status of work there, from the point of view of the archivist and the historian, and more at length of the *papeles procedentes de Cuba*; in general, of their organization, arrangement, history, present condition, completeness, content, value; in particular of the Florida occidental series, the Luisiana series, the Florida oriental papers; it includes a list of the principal titles relating to the *archivo* and a list of the indexes and inventories which are contained in the collection.

The facts, brought out in the introduction, that 945 *legajos* were found to contain material which could be described as bearing upon the history of the United States, and that these *legajos* contain some 472,743 documents and 461 account and letter books, make it easy to see how impracticable it was to carry out the original plan of compiling a complete calendar of all these documents. Instead the *legajo* has been chosen as the unit of the description.

This description is more or less minute and detailed according to the editor's estimate of the relative importance of the *legajos treated*: one class being described only very generally, as to title, period covered, arrangement, list of correspondents, a general indication of the subjects treated and the important documents; the second class being more minutely described, the description consisting of heading, statement of scope and arrangement, and "an indication, in the form of calendar or otherwise, of the contents."

The importance of Mr. Hill's excellent work is great in proportion to

the importance of the material treated, which, though obviously of value primarily for the history of that part of the United States formerly comprised in Spanish Louisiana and the Floridas, reaches out far beyond these narrow provincial limits; it is invaluable for instance to the student of Spanish-American colonial administration, commerce, Indian policy, and foreign relations, as well as the territorial development of the United States. The period covered is approximately from 1775 through 1821, though a few documents fall on either side of these dates.

The reputation for uniform excellence of the editorial work of the department of historical research is so widespread that comment upon the good qualities of Mr. Hill's work in this respect seems superfluous. The index is conveniently full and well arranged; it has surprisingly few typographical errors, inconsistencies, or deficiencies in the matter of cross references.

In the very nature of things, an absolutely satisfactory calendar or catalog or index is an impossibility; it is easy to pick flaws in the best. Yet whoever has tried to carry such a task to completion realizes too feelingly the difficulties involved, especially in dealing with a large mass of Spanish papers, to let minor shortcomings interfere with his appreciation of whatever it possesses of usefulness, or with his gratitude to the compiler for the spirit of unselfish service which impelled him to submit to the drudgery inseparable from its successful achievement. He who has passed beyond the youthful stage wherein he feels sorrow that not he, but another, has been the successful doer of a large task will feel personal comfort in the realization that he will not have Mr. Hill's work to do over; he who is impersonally interested in the progress of historical scholarship will feel an impersonal gratitude to the compiler and the institution whose joint efforts have made possible this step forward in historical study.

ELIZABETH HOWARD WEST

*The former Philippines thru foreign eyes.* Edited by Austin Craig. (New York: D. Appleton and company, 1917. 552 p. \$3.00)

This book, dated "University of the Philippines, Manila, March 11th, 1916," was first published in Manila in 1916, especially if not exclusively for the use of the public schools. The American edition is evidently printed from the same plates as the Manila edition, or duplicates, but with its better paper and binding and its more artistic title-page, it presents a much more pleasing appearance than the latter. An innovation, not often seen in modern books, is the location of the index (not so full as is desirable) immediately after the table of contents, which in a sense destroys the logical make-up of a book, although it is as correct